

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>Applicant:</b>	Sumihito Konishi	<b>Examiner:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Serial No:</b>	To be assigned	<b>Art Unit:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Filed:</b>	Herewith	<b>Docket:</b>	17518
<b>For:</b>	ENDOSCOPE OPERATION SYSTEM	<b>Dated:</b>	March 3, 2004

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,400,792, dated March 28, 1995, issued to Hoebel et al.;  
and
2. Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 2000-276540, published  
October 6, 2000 together with an English language abstract.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

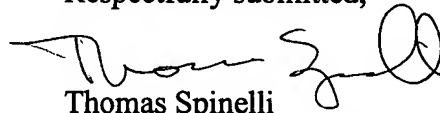
Dated: March 3, 2004

  
Thomas Spinelli

Applicant is submitting a copy of reference 2. Reference 1 is not being submitted herewith, as copies of U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003. The relevance of reference 2 has been described in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Spinelli", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas Spinelli  
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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Docket Number (Optional) <b>17518</b>	Application Number <b>To be assigned</b>
	Applicant(s) <b>Sumihito Konishi</b>	
	Filing Date <b>Herewith</b>	Group Art Unit <b>Unassigned</b>

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,400,792	3/28/1995	Hoebel et al.			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
		2000-276540	10/6/2000	Japan				

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*


<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.